



The Rail Gunner Weekly

41st Fires Brigade



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589th BSB



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IPs graduate medic training



Spc. Krystal Smith, medic and course instructor assigned to Co. C, 589th BSB, watches as IP Sgt. Deyaa Hasham inserts the intravenous catheter into his partner's arm during the final testing of the three-week medic course at FOB Delta.

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson
41st Fires Bde. PAO

When the Wasit Provincial Director of Police asked the 41st Fires Brigade for some help training their medics, Task Force Gunner Med stepped up to the plate to provide the training.

Based off the Army's Combat Life Saver Course, 10 Iraqi Police medics learned about: triage, the three echelons of tactical field care, treating shock, abdominal wounds, chest wounds, fractures, burns, clearing airways and breathing and circulation.

"It's very important to increase our information in medical training," said IP Sgt. Deyaa Hasham, IP Special Medical Unit. "We learned a lot of information that is really beneficial to save a lot of lives and we learned a lot about the care under fire and evacuating a casualty. We really learned a lot."

Not only did the course help the IPs learn how to be better medics, but also a greater appreciation for being medics, according to the class leader.

"I believe that my Soldiers have more concern about the mission as they deal with the patients because they learned the important things about triage and they learned a lot of information," said IP Staff Sgt. Karrar Ali, IP Special Medical Unit and class leader. "The course was perfect."

The instructor for the course was impressed with the IP medics.

"They're excellent; they already know a lot and

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

so the classes have been going really well," said medic Spc. Krystal Smith, Co. C, 589th Brigade Support Battalion. "The people who do know stuff are willing to share with the people that aren't quite as experienced and they always have answers to my questions."

The last part of the course tested the medics' ability to start an intravenous catheter. Each medic successfully started an IV, which was a critical skill required to graduate the course.

The medics also received all of the materials used in the course so that they can go back to their unit and train other medics as part of the train-the-trainer program.

"I hope that they continue to train each other and continue to practice the skills I'm teaching them so they will be perfectly effective when the situation happens when they are needed," said Smith, of Griffin, Ga.

After the medics completed the IV practical exercise, they were awarded certificates of achievement for completing the medic training course.

Smith said that her interpreter played an important role in the success of the course.

"I have an excellent interpreter because he actually knows the medical things," said Smith. "He's been working with us for approximately three years so he actually knows what I am talking about so he's not paraphrasing and we're not searching for words to describe what I am saying. There's nothing lost in translation."

The IP medics graduated from the course April 16.

Iraqis add to human intelligence skill set

By Sgt. Allison Churchill
41st Fires Bde. PAO

Eighteen Iraqi intelligence personnel gathered in a classroom at the Iraqi Police Academy on FOB Delta to learn about human intelligence collection April 13-18.

Military intelligence experts from 41st Fires Brigade taught the class which covered concepts of intelligence fusion, operational security, reporting information, interrogation techniques, document exploitation, map reading and pattern and link analysis.

The students were hand-selected by their employers to attend the class, with a number of intelligence agencies represented: the National Information and Investigations Agency, part of the Ministry of the Interior; Director General for Intelligence and Security, part of the Ministry of Defense; Iraqi National Intelligence Service; Department of Border Enforcement and Ministry of State for National Security Affairs.

The students and instructors impressed each other.

"The instructors had the intelligence to transfer information to students," said a student, whose name is being withheld for security reasons. The student, an employee of the Wasit intelligence office of the MOI, added the course enhanced the knowledge and experience he already had.

He agreed with the lessons taught during the interrogation class.

"It's better now than during Saddam's regime – there's less force, more progress," said the student.

Another student from the MOI pointed out that he and his colleagues have to take psychology classes to better read the body language of detainees.



Chief Warrant Officer Two Randall Stittsworth, of Napa, Calif., OMT and HUMINT collection OIC, Co. C, 303rd MI Bn., and an Iraqi intelligence officer for the Wasit province intelligence office of the Ministry of the Interior, listen to comments from another student during a class on interrogation techniques taught by Stittsworth April 16 at the Iraqi Police Academy on FOB Delta. The students, hand-selected by their employers to attend the class, broke into small groups to practice the techniques in scenarios.

Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

"Love of family really got them involved," said Maj. Jennifer Finch, of Goose Creek, S.C., 41st Fires Bde., MI officer-in-charge, said of the intelligence fusion class. She said the students seemed inspired by seeing how their job fits into the rest of national security.

"They don't just sit and nod," said Chief Warrant Officer Two Randall Stittsworth, of Napa, Calif., operations management team and HUMINT collectors OIC, Company C, 303rd

MI Battalion.

Stittsworth said in most of his unit's operations the Iraqis have been taking the lead in interrogations. Not only can the Iraqis gain more useful information but the information gained is also more beneficial.

"We're just here to help out with advice," said Stittsworth, during the interrogation class. "This is your home."

The students graduated on April 18.

Civil affairs Soldiers recognized for PRT support



Capt. John Manion, civil affairs officer, Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team, receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Daniel Ammerman, commander, 304th Civil Affairs Brigade, Multi-National Corps -- Iraq during a ceremony outside the PRT building April 18.

Maj. John Finkle, civil affairs rule of law officer and Master Sgt. Rea Cichocki, PRT logistics NCO also received the MSM during the ceremony.

Lt. Col. George Doms, civil affairs planning team leader; Master Sgt. Patrick Getzinger, team first sergeant; and Staff Sgt. Melissa Powell, CA planning team sergeant each received the Bronze Star Medal during the same ceremony.

Photo by Sgt. Allison Churchill, 41st Fires Bde. PAO

Iraqi generals visit Fort Hood school during trip

Originally published in the April 16 issue of the Fort Hood Sentinel



Col. Alauddin Mohialdeen Abdullah (right), 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, and Brig. Gen. Abed Jebur Madhloom present a gift to Meadows Elementary School principal Karol Carlisle during a tour of the school April 8.

Photo by Michael Heckman, Fort Hood Sentinel Staff

By Michael Heckman
Fort Hood Sentinel Staff

Children everywhere ask a lot of questions.

What they want to know reflects differences and similarities in culture and circumstance.

Fifth-graders at Meadows Elementary School on post have become video pen pals with students in the Wasit Province in eastern Iraq. The exchange began thanks to an Adopt-A-School partnership with the 41st Fires Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment led by Lt. Col. Timothy Bush.

Last week, Col. Dick Francey, the brigade's commander, brought Col. Alauddin Mohialdeen Abdullah and Brig. Gen. Abed Jebur Madhloom, two officers with the 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade, 8th IA Div., to the post school, where they met principal Karol Carlisle, toured the school and answered questions from members of a fifth-grade class in the library.

Conversations were facilitated by Chris Andrew, a translator who works with Francey in Iraq.

When Dai'briauna Nash, 12, asked if Iraqi students would recognized American icons or celebrities such as Mickey Mouse and Hannah Montana, Abdullah sprinkled Arabic with familiar names, including Tom and Jerry, Sponge Bob and Nickelodeon.

Another fifth-grader, Tierra Thomas, seemed surprised the Iraqi school children often are served milk and eggs but seldom if ever potato chips or soft drinks.

And Matthew Johnson was fascinated to learn that scorpions and cobras can be found in different parts of the Middle East country.

In a video shown in the library, Iraqi children asked questions that included:

"How many colors do you have for art class? We have too few."

"We have no gym for soccer or basketball; does your school have one?"

Noting the absence of computers in his school, an Iraqi boy asked, "How do you treat outstanding students at your school?"

Another Iraqi student added, "We have a science lab but with no equipment or supplies..."

Several Iraqi students complained about lack of personal attention from teachers in crowded classrooms and little or no help with homework.

The Meadows students seemed fascinated but acknowledged surprise at some of the answers.

"I was most surprised that they don't get enough help. We do," Nash said. "And the lack of supplies; we have mostly every color you can think of."

Johnson, who uses one of the computers in the school's lab, said he also was surprised by "the number of questions about how do they get

the supplies they don't have."

Despite the problems he and other Iraqi students face, another boy said, "We look forward to having a good relationship with students at Meadows Elementary School."

Distance and differences of circumstance may separate them, but the students share similar interests and concerns

Carlisle said she was most surprised by how alike are the lives of children in both countries.

"They have the same interests and concerns," she added.

Abdullah agreed. "They have the same life but in a different country," he said of Iraqi students. "They like ice cream for dessert and dress like you are now."

Abdullah said he has two children about the same ages as the fifth-grade students. He and Madhloom recorded digital images as they walked through the school, touring its gym and cafeteria, where Abdullah talked with several pre-school children.

Addressing reporters as the Iraqi generals departed, Carlisle said dedication to children needs no translation.

"Interaction makes it obvious," she added.

Visits like Wednesday's are important because "this is where we make the future," Andrew translated for Madhloom.

After returning to Iraq, he plans to meet with educators to discuss how they can provide an education more like he saw students at Meadows experiencing.

Carlisle said her plans include expanding the video pen pal program to another fifth-grade class and two fourth-grade classes.

Students are thrilled to hear voices of other children from around the world, she said.

Of the importance of improving Iraqi schools and other infrastructure in the war-torn nation, Francey said, "They can be the Army and great

Please see VISIT, page 4

Worship Opportunities

Sunday

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| <i>Chapel 1</i> | |
| Traditional Protestant | 0900 |
| Latter-day Saints | 1030 |
| Gospel Service | 1300 |
| Reconciliation service | 1830 |
| Catholic Mass (English) | 1930 |

Monday

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| <i>Chapel 1</i> | |
| Catholic Mass | 0800 |

Tuesday

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| <i>Mayor Cell</i> | |
| Bible Study | 1930 |
| <i>Chapel 1</i> | |
| Bible Study | 2000 |

Thursday

| | |
|-------------|------|
| <i>TMC</i> | |
| Bible Study | 1930 |

Saturday

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| <i>Chapel 1</i> | |
| Catholic Mass | 0800 |
| Christian Movie Night | 2000 |

ISF lead the way for Dujaylah Pride Day

By Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson
41st Fires Bde. PAO

Iraqi Security Forces, government officials and Coalition Forces joined together for a town clean-up day in Dujaylah April 18.

Dujaylah Pride Day brought together local town officials, local police, 3rd Battalion, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade Soldiers and 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment Soldiers as they conducted a trash pick-up to show the local community the unity of effort between the ISF, GoI and CF and to strengthen community ties.

"It was very good for the city and the people because they see the Army and the Police and the Americans as they worked together to clean the area and that's a really excellent job to inform the people of the cooperation," said Salah Nasser Al Attabr, deputy mayor of Dujaylah.

Iraqi Army humvees led the way with two garbage trucks following as the group picked up trash along a one mile loop in the inner city.

"The Iraqi Army, IPs and the Coalition Forces helped to clean this area and the people saw that we just don't protect them, but we also help the community," said Iraqi Maj. Jabber Jom'ah Owaid, 3/32nd IA Bde.

Kids in the town gathered around the Soldiers and also joined the clean-up, working hand-in-hand with Coalition and Iraqi Forces.

"It's supposed to be for everybody, every member of society even the officials, kids, students and college students," said Salah. "They have to share in this kind of job of cleaning



A Soldier from 3/32 IA Bde., carries a trash bag with a local boy during Dujaylah Pride Day April 18. The event showed the local community the unity of effort between the ISF, GoI and CF and to strengthen community ties.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson 41st Fires Bde. PAO

their city. That is their duty."

The hope for this event is that the citizens of Dujaylah will see the example of partnership and care of community, according to Salah.

"It's an excellent example plus a lot of people they see the Americans doing this job, so they know the Americans came from all over and they came here to help people, even

to clean their streets and try to help them to improve their city," said Salah.

"I think that this shows the people that it's important to clean up their streets and that a lot of people here feel that they have to start to do that themselves," said Jabber. "Some people promised me that they will work hard to clean their city in the future."

VISIT, continued from page 3



Meadows Elementary School principal Karol Carlisle introduces Col. Alauddin Mohialdeen Abdullah, 32nd Iraqi Army Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, to children in the cafeteria during a tour of the school April 8 when he and Brig. Gen. Abed Jebur Madhlom experienced school, American-style. The visit was part of a tour of the United States that included stops in Texas, Kansas and Washington, D.C. Students at Meadows and an Iraqi school in Wasit Province have become video pen pals thanks to an Adopt-A-School program with the 41st Fires Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment.

Photo by Michael Heckman, Fort Hood Sentinel

and powerful within their country but they have a responsibility beyond just security.

"What we're trying to instill with the Iraqis," he added, "is a level of responsibility."

Although the Iraqi army and police have come a long way since the war began, Francey said, "...now we're trying to take them to the next step and work with the government and economic development to start developing the essential services."

Because of international sanctions that have been imposed upon Iraq since the 1980s and the damage inflicted by the war, "It's been a long, hard road for the Iraqis," Francey said.

"Now it's time to move on and rebuild that country," he added.

Although progress toward rebuilding has been slow, Francey said, "There's a feeling of enthusiasm in the country now. It may not be fixed overnight but it's moving in the right direction."

Of efforts to rebuild and improve Iraqi schools, he added, "I work closely with the provincial council and governor and they have a budget with a pretty hefty amount set aside for redevelopment of their education system."